



Board Licensure of Healthcare Professionals



Why is licensure of health care professionals important to Iowans?

In the past year, nearly every Iowan has relied on a health care professional or business regulated by the boards of the Iowa Department of Public Health. You expect those health care providers and technicians to be competent, courteous and professional. IDPH works to protect the public and improve access to quality health services through the administration of 23 professional licensing boards that license and enforce competency standards for those health care providers.

All Iowans deserve ethical and safe health care from competent and qualified practitioners. Licensing is an effective way to keep untrained and dishonest individuals from practicing in any of our health care professions. Licensing boards also set and enforce rules to ensure practitioners qualified to be licensed maintain minimum standards of practice.

Did you know?

There are nearly 150,000 licensed health care professionals active in Iowa, regulated by 23 separate licensing boards whose members are appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Iowa Senate.

A focus on health equity

By maintaining and enforcing licensing and practice standards, the IDPH professional licensing boards ensure the health care available to all Iowans is competent and ethical.

What does the department do?

Processes applications for initial licensure, license renewal and reactivation of licenses. Each year, over 4,000 new license applications and 23,000 renewal applications are processed in the Bureau of Professional Licensure alone.

- The Board of Nursing regulates the licensure and practice of almost 70,000 nurses.
- The Board of Medicine regulates the 13,124 physicians with active Iowa medical licenses, 16 physicians with active administrative licenses, and 70 acupuncturists.
- The Dental Board licenses and regulates over 9,000 dental professionals, including dentists, dental hygienists and dental assistants.
- The Board of Pharmacy licenses and regulates more than 6,300 actively licensed pharmacists, more than 3,600 actively licensed pharmacies and other businesses, and nearly 27,000 other individuals and businesses actively involved in prescription drug distribution.
- Coordinates examinations for licensure, when required.
- Address all disciplinary complaints and implements discipline when warranted. Approximately 1,500 complaints are submitted every year that must be investigated by the respective licensing entity.
- Conducts continuing education audits.
- Administers monitoring programs for practitioners with substance abuse or mental health problems and helps them return to practice as soon as it is safe to do so.
- Promulgates rules and regulations to carry out the mandate of laws passed by the legislature and approved by the governor.
- Provides licensure and discipline records to the public, employers and credentialers.
- Monitors national health care trends.



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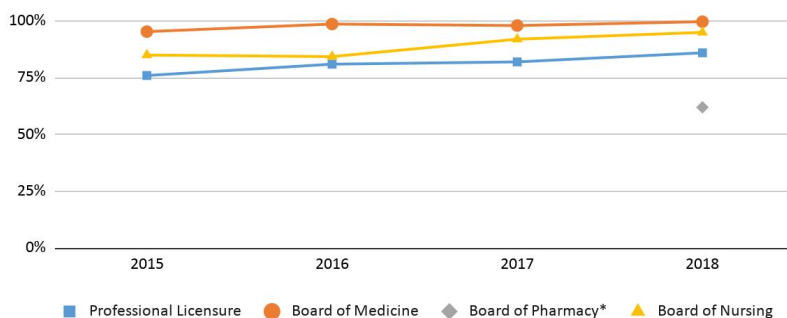
What can Iowans do to help?

Iowans are encouraged to report incompetent or unethical health care practice. Contact the appropriate board office by telephone or complete a complaint form online at the following:

- For the Board of Medicine, 515-281-5171 or www.medicalboard.iowa.gov
- For the Board of Nursing, 515-281-3255 or <https://nursing.iowa.gov>
- For the Dental Board, 515-281-5157 or www.dentalboard.iowa.gov
- For the Board of Pharmacy, 515-281-5944 or <https://pharmacy.iowa.gov>
- For the boards administered by the Bureau of Professional Licensure, 515-281-0254 or <https://ibplicense.iowa.gov/PublicPortal/Iowa/IBPL/publicsearch/publicsearch.jsp>

How do we measure our progress?

Percent of board licensure health care professional applications submitted online



* Began accepting online applications in May 2018

Resources

	SFY 2018 Actual	SFY 2019 Actual	SFY 2020 Estimate
State Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other Funds	\$13,085,382	\$12,307,837	\$16,587,316
Total Funds	\$13,085,382	\$12,307,837	\$16,587,316
FTEs	82.51	83.64	93.10